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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/657,395

09/08/2003

Katsumi Yamaguchi

21334-1256

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06/17/2004

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EXAMINER

LE, UYEN CHAU N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,395

Applicant(s)

YAMAGUCHI, KATSUMI

Examiner

Uyen-Chau N. Le

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9803</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because the abstract should be less than 150 words. Appropriate correction is required. See M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

3. Claims 8, 12 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Re claim 8, line 2: Substitute "cam member" with -- a second cam member --.
Re claim 12, line 5: Substitute "the halves" with -- the first and second halves --.
Re claim 14, line 2: Substitute "cam member" with -- a second cam member --.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 2876

5. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oguchi (US 6,095,835).

Re claims 9-14, Oguchi discloses a card connector comprising: a stopper member supported in a card receiving slot by a supporting shaft [8, 9], the stopper member pivots between a first position where the stopper member blocks the card receiving slot to prevent advancement of a card 1 therein, and a second position where advancement of the card 1 therein is unblocked; and cam member pivotally supported the card receiving slot by a supporting shaft arranged perpendicular to the supporting shaft [8, 9] of the stopper member, the cam member 14 having a claw [6a, 7a] that abuts stopper member to prevent the stopper member from pivoting to the second position, the cam member 14 having a cam surface [B, D] positioned such that when the card has a desired thickness, the cam member 14 is cam-engaged by the card to release the claw from the stopper member; wherein the stopper member is biased toward the first position; wherein the claw [6a, 7a] is biased against the stopper member by a torsion spring 10; wherein the cam member 14 has symmetrical first and second halves and a space for receiving the card with a thickness less than the desired thickness is formed between the cam surfaces [B, D] of the halves; wherein the cam surface protrudes into the card receiving slot (figs. 1-7E; col. 3, line 62 through col. 6, line 41).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-7 allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of Oguchi and all other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific structure of a card connector comprising, among other steps, a stopper member pivots between a first position where the stopper member blocks the first receiving slot to prevent advancement of the first or second card, and a second position where advancement of the first or second card is unblocked; and a cam member having a claw that abuts the stopper member to prevent the stopper member from pivoting to the second position and a cam surface that releases the claw from the stopper member when cam-engaged by the first card as set forth in the claimed combinations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection(s) set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of Oguchi and all other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific structure of a card connector comprising, among other steps, further comprising a second stopper member and cam member arranged on an opposite side of the card receiving slot as set forth in the claimed combinations.

Art Unit: 2876

Conclusion


10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Harasawa et al (US 6,623,304); David et al (US 5,564,936); Nishioka (US 6,036,513); Muramatsu et al (US 6,405,928); Oguchi et al (US 6,089,890); Spickler et al (US 5,967,810); Oguchi (US 6,113,403); Kajiura (US 6,033,243); Somerville et al (US 6,234,844) are as of interest and illustrate to a similar structure of a card connector.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2397. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Wed. and Fri. 5:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL G LEE can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Uyen-Chau N. Le
June 14, 2004


MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800